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REPORT

OF THE

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

OF THE

Town of Wilmot.

INCLUDING A REPORT FROM THE

NEW STATE LIBRARY,

NOV 5 1897

No.

Superintending School Committee,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1878.

EAST CANAAN:
REPORTER PRESS, C. O. BARNEY, PRINTER.
1878.

запись о земельных
и имущественных
делах

Санкт-Петербург

Selectmen's Report.

The Selectmen charge themselves with assessments of 1877:

State tax,	\$712 00
County tax,	676 00
Town tax,	3,500 00
Swellage tax,	192 92
School tax as raised by law,	623 00
School money voted by town,	150 00
Money voted by town to decorate soldier's graves,	25 00
Dox tax,	61 00
Non-resident highway,	67 00
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	\$6,081 92

The Selectmen credit the Collector as follows:

By receipts from Town Treasurer for the sum of	\$5,581 92
Balance in Collector's hands,	\$500 00

We also charge ourselves with receiving the following sums:

County pauper claims,	\$481 96
Money refunded for taxes on sale of real estate in 1876,	62 15
From property sold from town farm in 1875,	22 60
Money received for poll taxes from Nelson Stevens and son for 1877,	4 14
Money hired,	\$2,842 30
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	\$3,413 15

Selectmen credit themselves with receipts

from Town Treasurer for the sum of \$3,413 15

For a full account of the items of money received and paid out, we refer you to the Treasurer's Report.

ORRIN H. PERKINS,
SAMUEL C. WALDRON, } Selectmen
HORACE WEBSTER. } of
Wilmot.

TREASURER'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1877.

RECEIPTS.

Cash in Treasury as per report, March 1st, 1877.	\$382 00
Received of State Treasurer savings bank tax,	468 09
Railroad tax,	33 64
Literary fund,	109 65
Selectmen county pauper claims,	481 96
Money refunded for taxes from sales of real estate in 1876,	62 15
For property sold from town farm in 1875,	22 60
Curtis Langley, in full for amount reported due on tax list of 1875,	68 00
Willie Gordon in part for purchase money for town farm,	250 00
Willie Gordon, interest on same,	8 62
Selectmen, money paid for Poll taxes by Nelson Stevens and son, for 1877,	4 14
Selectmen, money hired,	2,842 30
S. Bunker, collector on tax list of 1877,	5,581 92
S. Bunker, collector on tax list of 1876, in full,	64 57
Total amount of money received,	\$10,379 64

DISBURSEMENTS.

Paid on outstanding notes, and said notes being taken up, as follows:	
Paid Mary S. Keyser, note and interest,	\$40 85

Horace Webster the Samuel & Jane B. Patterson

note and interest,	912 07
O. H. Perkins, note and interest,	106 55
Gursham Durgin, " "	152 55
Caleb B. Tracy, " "	535 75
John L. Langley, " "	643 20
Nancy A. Eastman, " "	1,113 95
Mary E. Harvey, " "	209 85
Mary F. Perkins, " "	53 35
Sumner E. Philbrick, " "	208 05
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	\$3,976 17

PAID IN PART ON NOTES.

Stephen Felch,	\$128 86
Lewis Fisher,	328 93
Mrs Polly Mears,	60 00
Mrs. Sally Brown,	15 00
Mrs. Abigail C. Poor,	25 00
Mrs. Martha A. Pattee,	55 00
Mrs. Mary B. Durgin,	69 44
W. F. Langley,	94 00
Freeman Fellows,	100 00
Morrill Currier,	80 00
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	\$956 23

Paid State Tax,	\$712 00
County tax,	676 04

\$1,388 04

AMOUNT OF SCHOOL MONEY.

Paid to the several districts as follows:

District No. 1, Alfred W. Philbrick,	\$143 93
2, James C. Sherman,	47 13
3, Alvah Chadwick,	70 58

4, Sumner E. Philbrick,	51 48
5, Joshua Holland,	45 28
6, S. S. Tilton,	48 78
7, Daniel G. Webster,	50 03
8, Benj. Emmons,	160 33
9, Francis Farnum,	53 48
10, George B. Tewksbury,	46 38
11, Martin H. White,	48 83
12, Michael Graney,	46 23
13, Wm. B. Fellows,	45 73
Scytheville, New London,	24 40
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	\$882 59

PAID SCHOOL HOUSE TAX.

District No. 6, Irvin J. Brown,	\$50 00
Paid school house tax assessed in 1876 in district No. 8, to Marcus M. Mory,	25 00
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	\$75 00

AMOUNT PAID OUT ON ORDERS ISSUED BY SELECT MEN.—ON HIGHWAYS.

Paid Abram Bickford, labor on stone bridge,	\$8 00
Freeman Fellows, " "	6 00
M. B. Cheney, for labor,	27 45
O. H. Perkins, for grading and railing near woolen mill, and cash paid for work,	28 00
E. G. Kimball, cutting bushes,	4 00
Abram Bickford, for building stone bridge in Hiram Davis District,	10 00
S. G. Hill, building stone bridge in John Rowe's District,	20 00
G. W. Atwood, covering bridge,	25
Patrick Lougee, labor,	75
Stephen Tewksbury, work on bridge,	4 00
David Heath, work on highway near woolen mill.	

drawing timber for bridge at Flat, &c., as per bill,	40 25
O. H. Langley, labor,	10 00
Horace Webster, "	1 00
John A. Hardy, "	1 50
D. B. Andrews, "	4 00
F. E. Chase, "	2 00
S. G. Hill, labor on bridge at Flat,	2 50
B. C. Keniston, labor on hill,	10 00
J. S. Dodge, for planing boards at Flat,	2 51
L. T. Johnson, repairing culvert,	73
S. B. Brown, work in Poor district,	5 00
John Rowe, labor,	15 40
Freeman J. Rowe, putting in culvert,	4 95
C. C. Morrill, labor,	1 00
J. L. Langley, labor,	1 90
Bion Hall, labor on bridge at Flat,	7 83
S. P. Hall, " "	6 30
Dodge Bros., " Turnpike,	85 07
" " labor in S. B. Brown's district,	33 75
M. H. White, labor,	1 78
S. C. Waldron, labor on town farm district,	8 75
O. H. Perkins, setting posts for railing, work on bridge at Flat, and money paid out as per bill,	13 37
J. Holland, cutting bushes,	1 50
S. C. Waldron, examining road,	1 00
Minot Stearns, for powder, &c,	50
Dodge Bros., labor done in 1876,	17 45
	\$388 49

BRIDGE PLANK AND TIMBER.

Paid Abram Bickford, plank,	\$6 00
G. W. Atwood, "	3 97
Morrill Currier, "	5 47
Stephen Tewksbury, plank and timber,	12 94
O. H. Langley, " "	5 00

D. B. Andrews,	"	"	21 98
F. E. Chase,	"	"	3 00
D. B. Andrews,	"	"	12 52
J. S. Dodge,	"	"	16 19
Eben Farnum, piank,			2 61
L. T. Johnson,	"		25
John Rowe, plank and timber,			4 48
M. B. Cheney, "	"		7 00
Dodge Bros.	"	"	36 15
R. C. Carr,	"		12 60
			<hr/>
			\$150 16

Cost of Bridge at the Flat, \$95 00

BREAKING ROADS IN 1876.

Paid W. R. Barney,	11 30
I. B. Cheney,	2 70
S. I. Clay,	5 00
B. G. Cross,	5 10
Jona. Clay,	1 00
J. F. Tilton,	4 70
Newell S. Durgin,	3 50
Freeman Fellows,	1 50
G. W. Atwood,	2 40
C. H. Thompson,	2 00
	<hr/>
	\$39 20

BREAKING ROADS FROM JAN. 1st. TO APRIL 1st, 1877.

Paid W. R. Barney,	\$2 40
I. B. Cheney,	4 00
S. J. Clay.	4 70
B. G. Cross,	5 90
Alvah Chadwick,	3 50
Jona. Clay,	1 00
F. E. Chase,	4 20
J. F. Tilton,	3 30

Newell S. Durgin,	5 20
Freeman Fellows,	1 05
O. H. Perkins.	1 80
G. W. Atwood,	4 80
John A. Hardy,	1 50
C. H. Thompson,	5 00
	—————
	\$48 35

PAID FOR DIGGING GRAVES.

Paid James M. Pillsbury, 6 graves,	\$12 00
John P. Bean, 1 grave,	1 50
S. Bunker, 7 graves,	21 25
Curtis Langley, 1 grave,	1 75
	—————
	\$36 50

Money drawn b^r Overseer of Poor, (O. H. Perkins,) by
Orders on Town Treasurer, \$675 00

MISCELLANEOUS BILLS.

Paid B. W. Sanborn, for stationery,	\$10 45
J. P. Elkins, for certificates of births and deaths,	8 50
J. H. Burpee, money voted to decorate soldiers graves,	25 00
W. F. Langley, to cash paid for fencing on town farm,	1 25
O. H. Perkins, for examining culvert,	50
“ “ “ M. B. Cheney’s road,	50
“ “ labor “ “ “	1 50
“ “ money paid to witnesses Thomp. vs. town, and expenses to Concord,	21 25
F. H. Whittemore, for 2 guide boards,	4 00
O. H. Perkins, for money surveying on line between Warner and Wilmot,	2 00
C. C. Lund, surveying branch bridge road,	40 90
O. H. Perkins, for money paid commissioner in case Thompson vs. Wilmot,	104 60
N. P. Clough, for iron used on railing at Flat,	11 00

O. H. Perkins, for money paid out to J. H. Greeley for stationery,	2 22
S. C. Morey, for bounty on 3 foxes,	1 50
James Moody, witness fees case Thomp. v. Wilmot, for expenses with Road Commissioners,	2 00 1 25
W. W. Flanders, for telegraphing T. vs. W.	25
E. Hibard, for bolts and clasps for bridge,	3 31
Wm. Brown, for delivering clasps &c.	25
Horace Webster, summoning and money paid,	2 13
“ “ repairing fence on Town Farm,	4 00
D. B. Andrews, for nails used on bridge,	1 45
Money drawn by O. H. Perkins, and paid as follows:	
To Luther Wheeler, for oil and paint for bridge,	1 88
John Morey, bounty on fox and hawk,	70
Charles Keyser, “ “	50
George Shepard, executing deed Town Farm,	25
Robert F. Ford, for surveying road,	9 00
F. W. Flanders, summoning witness,	2 46
J. S. Dodge, witness fees T. vs. Wilmot,	1 25
O. H. Perkins, keeping 2 tramps,	2 00
For town order book and stationery,	3 15
spikes, bolts, zinc &c. for bridge,	3 09
To A. J. Cheney, bounty on 10 foxes,	5 00
J. C. Howlett, bounty on fox,	50
John Morey, “ “	50
For expenses to settle pauper claims,	3 20
To David Heath, witness fees Thomp. vs. Wilmot,	1 25
Order to J. F. White, “ “ “	2 50
S. C. Waldron, on town line between Wilmot and New London,	4 00
Horace Webster, on town lines between Warner New London and Wilmot, and taking deposi- tions in regard to town lines,	9 50
W. F. Langley, Treasurer, money paid for ex- penses to settle State and County taxes, and time spent in paying claims out of town,	15 50
S. C. Waldron, for horse hire,	5 00

H. Webster	"	"	3 00
S. C. Waldron, for board of Town Officers,		19 25	
O. H. Perkins, on line between Warner and Wilmot,		3 00	
O. H. Perkins, on Thompson road case, and making return to tax commissioners,		30 25	
W. W. Flanders, for legal services, and expenses in case Thompson vs. Wilmot,		109 03	
Seth Goodhue, witness fees and expenses to court in case Thomp. vs. Wilmot,		8 36	
S. Bunker, for taxes and costs on the sale of real estate,		34 69	
Minot Stearns, for damage on wagon wheel,		75	
" " services in case Thomp. vs. Wilmot,		11 50	
Minot Stearns, services on New London line,		6 00	
Total miscellaneous,		\$546 87	

COMMITTEE FOR SERVICES TO SELL TOWN FARM.

Paid Wm. W. Flanders,	\$15 00
W. F. Langley,	3 75
O. H. Perkins,	2 00
	\$20 75

TOWN OFFICERS BILLS.

Paid Curtis Langley, Moderator 1877,	\$2 00
Orin H. Perkins, 1st Selectman,	66 75
Samuel C. Waldron, 2d "	54 50
Horace Webster 3d "	59 00
W. F. Langley, Treasurer,	45 00
O. H. Perkins, Overseer of Poor,	34 50
W. W. Flanders, Supt. Committee,	50 00
Seth Goodhue, Town Clerk,	38 00
Minot Stearns, Town Clerk pro tem at last meeting,	3 00
Sylvester Bunker, Collector,	100 00
Frank W. Flanders, Auditor,	2 00
	\$454 75

ABATEMENT OF TAXES IN 1877.

Flora Alexander,	\$2 69
Mrs. Jacob Morey.	2 57
Silas B. Prescott, by vote of town,	9 85
James P. Reed,	3 82
Walter Chase, by request,	3 73
Samuel O. Rowell, by request,	2 07
Benjamin S. Keniston, "	9 81
Clara Sewell,	8 69
Town Farm,	20 70
School house tax in Dist. No. 13, on list of 1876,	25 65
Job Atkinson,	1 28
Levi Messer,	40
Baron Carter,	50
G. A. Knowlton, on dog,	1 00
	\$92 76

OVER TAX IN 1877.

George Atwood, pensioner,	\$2 07
Abram Bickford, "	2 07
Joseph M. Hillsgrave, pensioner,	2 07
Robert Dearborn, "	2 07
F. E. Chase, disabled soldier,	2 07
Daniel Copp, not taxable,	2 07
John F. Gale, " "	2 07
Levi Messer, on real estate,	3 11
J. T. Prescott, jr. on horse,	79
J. T. Prescott, not taxable,	2 07
Greenleaf Prescott, on red house,	1 53
N. H. Upton, on poll and cow,	2 65
J. F. White,	1 00
Geo. Wilson, on poll,	2 07
Israel Brown, non resident land,	3 24
Ella Philbrick, on land,	3 11
	\$34 06

ABATEMENTS ON PUBLIC WATERING PLACES.

John P. Bean,	\$3 00
Green Johnson,	3 00
Charles Loverin,	3 00
J. L. Langley,	3 00
S. E. Philbrick.	3 00
J. S. Pillsbury,	3 00
B. C. Keniston,	3 00
H. Webster,	3 00
Seth Goodhue,	3 00
G. E. Woodward,	2 00

	\$29 00
Non-resident highway taxes worked,	\$8 50
Total amount of orders issued by Selectmen and paid by Treasurer,	\$2,524 39

RECAPITULATION.

Whole amount received,	\$10,379 64
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DISBURSEMENTS.

Paid by taking up notes,	\$3,976 17
in part on notes,	956 23
State and County taxes,	1,388 04
School money,	882 59
School house taxes,	75 00
On orders,	2,524 39
damage to Sheep done by Dogs,	6 00
Cash in Treasury,	571 22

	\$10,379 64

OUTSTANDING DEBTS.

List of notes bearing 5 per cent. interest.

Orin H. Perkins,	\$220 13
Warren F. Langley, (held in trust),	219 76
Mrs. Sally Clough,	641 54

" Sarah K. Brown,	76 96
W. F. Langley,	125 20
Moses K. Pingree,	849 89
Mrs. Martha A. Pattee,	52 32
" Polly Mears,	597 74
" Abiah Philbrick,	124 42
" Lydia H. Currier,	109 77
Miss Cynthia A Brown,	120 80
Sumner J. Clay,	219 60
Mrs. Hannah Sanborn,	382 14
Freeman Fellows,	417 73
Mrs Sally Brown,	13 37
" Abigail C. Poor,	188 20
Alvah Chadwick,	1,054 37
Mrs. Nancy Carr,	175 58
Lewis Fisher,	500 00
Jacob Dole,	490 82
Mrs. Mary B. Durgin,	1,157 54
Mary White,	180 07
Marcus R. Grace,	102 90
Mrs. Volana E. Kilton,	1,134 53
C. F. Trussell,	67 69
Mrs. Ella F. Pearson,	50 73
" Ellen W. Thompson,	438.53
J. P. Bean,	109 51
R. M. Rowe,	218 97
Albert F. Hale,	218 55
S. D. Andrews,	428 55
S. P. Hall,	429 83
J. M. Carr,	916 96
C. F. Kilton,	377 09
Susan M. Bunker,	216 98
W. F. Langley, guardian,	518 30
Benjamin Felch,	107 12
Fletcher Philbrick,	106 68
I. B. Youngman,	159 72
Mrs. Hannah F. Youngman,	209 65

" Louis Langley,	104 25
" O. B. Perkins,	51 90
Sarah White,	74 62
Stephen Felch,	2,000 00
J. P. Bean, Ex'r.	103 75
Mary A. Cross,	93 30
J. L. Langley,	103 55
Morrill Currier,	451 73
W. F. Langley, Admr.	512 50
Sumner E. and Ella Philbrick, as trustees,	2,110 23
Ella Philbrick,	316 31
Susan Cross,	77 12
Emma M. Heath,	10 10

Total amount of notes, \$19,739 60

STATEMENT OF INDEBTEDNESS OF THE TOWN OF
WILMOT, MARCH 1st, 1878.

Amount of Notes outstanding,	\$19,739 60
Balance of Dog tax in Treasury, March 1st, 1877,	41 50
" " " " 1878,	53 00
Estimated claims outstanding,	50 00

Total debt, \$19,884 10

ASSETS.

Due for money paid on sale of Real Estate for taxes,	\$34 69
Due on notes held by town for property sold from Town Farm 1875,	140 33
Due on tax list of 1877, from Willie Gordon, note and interest for purchase of Town Farm,	500 00
Cash in Treasury,	1,462 30
	571 22
Actual debt,	\$2,708 54
Indebtedness of Town by last year's report,	\$17,175 56
The actual debt this year,	\$18,444 31
Reduction of the debt this year,	17,175 56
	\$1,268 75

MEMORANDUM OF DOG TAX FOR THE YEAR 1877.

Amount assessed the past year,	\$61 00
Abatements allowed,	2 00
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	\$59 00

BILLS ALLOWED FOR DAMAGE DONE TO SHEEP BY DOGS.

The Selectmen have ordered to be paid on the 2nd Tuesday of March, inst. the following orders :

Order to Joseph G. Brown,	\$3 00
Moses B. Cheney,	3 00
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	\$6 00
Leaving a balance of	\$53 00

Respectfully submitted,

WARREN F. Langley, Treasurer.

This certifies that I have this day examined the foregoing accounts of receipts and expenditures, and find them properly entered, correctly added, and vouchers for the same.

Wilmot, Feby 28, 1878.

FRANK W. FLANDERS, Auditor.

Report of the Overseer of the Poor,

For the Year Ending March 1, 1878.

MONEY RECEIVED.

Money drawn from Town Treasury,	\$675 00
From County Commissioners for support of county paupers,	481 96
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	\$1,156 96

DISBURSEMENTS FOR COUNTY PAUPERS.

Paid for support of Edward Buswell and wife, in full,	\$37 05
" Nathaniel Brown, in full,	54 50
" Abigail Pedrick, to Feb. 1, 1878,	10 00
" Walter Chase, in full,	8 58
" Lucy M. Bishop, in full,	16 50
" George P. Chase, transient,	10 00
" Josephine Durgin to Feb. 7, 1878,	69 00
" Eliza Buswell and child, in full,	114 50
" Moses Dolby and family, in full,	38 28
" C. G. Fletcher and family, "	7 55
" Henry Hull, in full,	61 50
" James H. Dolby,	53 75
By John P. Bean, overseer in 1876,	27 00
For support James H. Dolby, said amount reported due from county by last year's report and included in the amount received from county this year,	508 21
Paid since settlement with Commissioners,	4 13
Total amount paid for county paupers,	<hr/> \$512 34
Total amount paid for county paupers before settlement Feb. 1, 1878,	\$508 21
Total amount allowed by commissioners,	481 96
Showing a discount of	<hr/> \$26 25

MONEY PAID OUT FOR TOWN PAUPERS FOR THE
YEAR ENDING MARCH 1st, 1878.

Amt. paid out on county pauper claims, brought up,	\$512 34
Paid for support of George Atwood's family,	4 58
Dexter E. Brown, for support of N. Brown, in	
full to Feb. 1st, 1878,	56 18
for support of Frank Prescott,	9 00
Jona. Scribner, for support of Mrs. John	
Peaslee,	60 00
for support of Daniel Prescott,	5 00
J. M. Pilsbury, for support Amanda Phelps,	
in full to Feb. 1st, 1878.	43 75
H. Webster, for keeping 2 tramps,	2 00
W. W. Flanders, for taking depositions,	3 00
W. F. Langley, for horse hire,	1 00
S. C. Waldron, for keeping 3 tramps,	3 00
O. H. Perkins, " 1 tramp,	1 00

	\$188 51

	\$700 85

Paid to Town Treasurer, money drawn from county,	\$27
not included,	\$454 96

Total amt. paid out,	\$1,155 81

Total amount received,	1,156 96
" " paid out,	1,155 81

Balance in Overseer's hands,	\$1 15

ORIN H. PERKINS, Overseer of Poor.

This certifies that I have this day examined the foregoing accounts of Receipts and Expenditures, and find them properly entered, correctly added, and vouchers for the same.

FRANK W. FLANDERS, Auditor.

Wilmot, Feb'y 28, 1878.

SCHOOL REPORT.

The Statistical Report of our schools the past year, a blank form for which was furnished by the Secretary of State has been filled out and completed as the law requires, but not distributed with this printed report.

There has been raised by taxation the past year for school purposes, \$773, and received of the Literary Fund money, \$109 59, which added to the former sum, amounts to \$882 59. Of that, \$24 40 has been paid to Scytheville District in New London, to which a portion of our Town has been annexed for school purposes.

For the first time in my recollection, our Treasurer has contributed no school funds for the towns of Sutton and Springfield, as has been done heretofore, without warrant of law, save that of a custom, adverse to every principle of justice, and of self-preservation. The balance of said money, amounting to the sum of \$858 19, has been distributed among, and to thirteen localities, called school districts, in sums, as appears in the following statement, together with names of Prudential Committees, number of scholars and length of schools in each District the past year :

No. of Dis.	Committee.	Am't.	No. of Scholars.	Weeks of school.
1,	Alfred W. Pedrick,	\$143 93	50	20
2,	J. C. Sherman,	\$47 13	23	10
3,	Alvah Chadwick,	\$70 58	7	10
4,	S. E. Philbrick,	\$51 48	6	9
5,	Joshua Holland,	\$45 28	17	19 3-5
6,	S. S. Tilton,	\$48 78	12	13
7,	David Webster,	\$50 03	18	12
8,	Benj. Emmons,	\$160 33	41	23
9,	Francis Farnum,	\$53 43	17	11
10,	Geo. B. Tewksbury,	\$46 38	23	16

11, Martin H. White,	\$48 83	19	12 3-5
12 Michael Graney,	\$46 23	18	14
13 Wm. B. Fellows,	\$45 73	15	14

It appears by the foregoing statement that District No. 8 received the largest amount of school money, and had twenty-three weeks of schooling the past year; and that District No. 5 had the smallest amount,—a little more than one-fourth of the amount of No. 8, and had a term of nineteen and three-fifths weeks. The same studies were pursued in both schools. The teacher qualified to teach in one of those Districts ought to be, and was qualified to teach in the other, so far as literary attainments are concerned. The experience of one of these teachers over the other, may, perhaps better qualify the one, of larger experience, to take charge of the larger school and entitle such to higher wages. That is not quite clear however, for both were alike successful. The scholars in each made satisfactory progress and the studies were as numerous and varied in one as the other. The average attendance of one, was 15,—the other 24. This Committee is unable to give any reason why as much learning and capacity is not required to govern and impart knowledge to the class of fifteen as that of twenty-five, for enlisting the interests and directing the efforts of the one as well as the other.

District No. 8 expended \$177 68, raised by taxation, including money raised in 1876 and not expended that year, for 23 weeks of school; while District No. 5 expended but \$45 28, raised by taxation, for 19 3-5 weeks of school. This remarkable difference in the results as above set forth suggests matter for reflection and serious consideration. The actual expenses of running schools in the different Districts in the Town are quite uniform and very much the same in all the districts. There ought to be no difference in the expense of board, fuel and repairs. There is, has been and reasonably may be, a difference in the price paid for services of teachers, which makes some difference in the results, but nothing like what appears by the foregoing statement. We think there has been poor judgment and economy manifested in the price paid for services.

The larger Districts seek first-class teachers without regard to price, and are satisfied, when such are obtained, no matter what the price may be. It is not only right, but a duty to obtain the services of efficient, well-qualified and first-class teachers; but there is no reason why the price for their services should not be effected, and reduced by the severity of the times as well as all other labor. There are many teachers, thoroughly qualified for the business, whose services can be obtained, and are waiting for employment.

We have many Districts with small amount of funds from taxes, whose chief effort is to husband their funds in the most economical manner, and lengthen their school thereby. Such look for and obtain the services of young and inexperienced teachers at small, and sometimes very low wages. It is evident this course will not always prove most judicious. It is an experiment liable to fail. Experience in teaching, as in all other business, makes the master workman.

The wages paid to teachers the past year, however, is but a small item which enters into the cause for prolonging the schools in our small Districts. In eight Districts that result has been accomplished by contribution in wood, board and repairs, so that the whole school money has been paid the teachers, or nearly so; while in four or five of the others every thing has been paid for, out of the school funds, not only for wood, board and repairs, but for cleaning and sweeping school rooms, for building fires, opening doors in morning and closing them at night,—everything is paid for out of the school funds which have been raised by taxation. This mainly, is the reason why the small sums distributed to many of the Districts accomplish results nearly equal to other Districts which have three or four times the amount of funds. This liberality by way of contribution in the Districts is commendable in the highest degree, and what ought to be done in every District.

The amount raised under the requirement of law is small, and it is not easy to get a vote of the town to raise much more than what is required. Every parent in town who has scholars, is

desirous of giving them a good thorough English education. The amount of money raised by taxation does not quite meet those desires. Many now are away at a large expense, attending school to learn what might and ought to be learned at our common district schools. Every district should obtain the services of an efficient, working and competent teacher of the first class; should contribute to the school funds in ways and manner adopted in Dist. No. 5 and others. There are enough in every district to do that much, whose pecuniary interest will be promoted thereby, though all may not join. It can be done without great inconvenience, and will bring it within the means of all to give their children the privilege of obtaining as good an English education as seven tenths of the graduates from our academies ever obtain. When parents understand their true interest in this regard and make such effort and sacrifice within their means to do, in this direction, they will enhance the privileges of town schools four fold.

To this end District No. 4 and No. 5 ought to be united, and the same with Districts No. 3 and No. 13. District No. 4 has been without a school house for twenty-five years, and to day is without a legal existence, entitled to none of the school money. Whatever of the school funds have been drawn out of the town treasury the past year and expended in that district has been illegal, if I have been rightly informed. Your committee understand there was no school meeting, or any attempt to have one in said district the past year. If that be true the district lost its organization. The statutes provides a way to re-organize in such a case. That it has not been done, or attempted, by taking the first steps in that direction. That as a substitute for all the known legal proceedings under such circumstances, the selectmen have appointed an agent, styling him prudential committee and clerk to receive the money. The same has been so received and schooled out in the usual way as heretofore. This has all been done supposing it to be legal, just and right no doubt. The territory formerly composing Dist. No. 4, all unorganized should be annexed to Dist. No. 5, and it is now a

good time to do it. The districts are contiguous. The school house could be located in a central position with little expense, so that no scholar at the present time, would be farther from it than some are in District No. 1 from theirs. With their funds united there would be a respectable sum for one school; there would be saved the expense of running one school, as one teacher could easily take charge of all, which together with the usual interest and liberality manifested heretofore in these districts by parents and agents, would give them one of the best schools in town with superior advantages.

Districts No. 3 and 13 constituted one district formerly. The school houses in each stand in full view and within rifle shot of each other. United they would have twenty-four scholars at most, and about \$150 usually, of the school funds. There is no serious obstacle in the way of union here; on the contrary everything points to the practicability and utility of such a union. Both of the old houses would make one good house, and would have to be moved not more than forty rods on an old highway discontinued only by abandonment, to meet on the same ground. These schools united would rank among the best in town with advantages inferior to none other.

If the matters and views heretofore alluded to and expressed, so interesting in detail, so important in practice, should be adopted and carried out, good and pleasing results would follow as I believe.

The prudential committee throughout the town, with but two or three exceptions, have been fortunate in obtaining the services of teachers well qualified, of suitable temper and disposition, who have applied their energies with uncommon success. The exceptions have not been failures in but few respects, one of which was in the use of the black board. I supposed it to be universal knowledge, that the black board and its daily use were indispensable to a good school. Strange it is, that there should be any who would undertake to run a school without a black board, or without using one. To furnish black boards, not brown, grey or white, but black boards ample in breadth and surface is the known duty of every district. The daily use of

the same is the known duty and business of every teacher.

"The number of weeks the public schools have been kept in each district in summer and winter, the number of scholars attending, studies pursued," &c. are put in tabulated form not printed. Of the studies attended to, the best progress has been made in Arithmetic, as a whole. A few have done equally well in Grammar. The number of grammarians are comparatively small. Reading of course is a universal study, but the instruction given has generally been not as good as mathematics. Scholars in District No. 1 have had superior advantages in that respect the past winter. Their efforts in reading have been quite as interesting and successful as in other studies, and more than heretofore. Other classes, in Geography, and especially in spelling, in most of the schools, have exhibited that degree of accuracy, readiness and brilliancy which indicate study, interest, and ambition to excel. The teachers on the whole have done their work well. A very small number have not come up fully to the standard of a reasonable expectation, owing to inexperience and want of familiarity with the studies taught. which experience will give them.

The different methods by which successful teachers hold their pupils to, and interest them in the work before them, some excelling in one way and in some studies which with them seem to be a speciality; others in another way and in other branches of education, suggest the importance and great value of association and visitation among schools in town while in operation by teachers and their older pupils. It would add to their experience, give new ideas, improve methods and excite emulation. From my long experience in visiting schools, I am thoroughly impressed with the importance and usefulness of such visits, and unhesitatingly recommend the practice at the expense of the time devoted to school purposes whenever practicable.

Respectfully submitted,

Wm. W. FLANDERS,

S. S. Committee of Wilmot.

March 1, 1878.

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